

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Compassionate and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Give the Members of this House strength, fortitude, and patience. Fill their parties with charity; their minds with understanding; their wills with courage to do the right thing for all of America.

In the work to be done in the week to come may they rise together to accomplish what is best for our great Nation.

Last week, we honored, and we thank You for the service rendered to the Allied cause of the Filipino veterans of World War II. May we always be grateful for the courageous in our midst, and the sacrifices of so many that we might enjoy the freedoms we have as a nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 27, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 27, 2017, at 9:48 a.m.:

That the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the bill S. 782.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 28.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

MADE IN SOUTH CAROLINA
CREATES JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the statewide consortium of ten institutions of higher education in South Carolina for receiving a 5-year Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-1 grant from the National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. This grant led to the creation of the Materials, Assembly, and Design Excellence in South Carolina initiative—or MADE in South Carolina—to create jobs.

This grant encourages small businesses to grow by providing seed money through the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer awards to businesses and materials-related projects. This consortium will further foster research and development in the State by focusing on advanced materials discovery and optimization efforts that are in high demand. MADE in South Carolina will boost the manufacturing and materials science workforce by adding new undergraduate degree programs and expanding current coursework, which will provide and increase the skilled-labor workforce.

As a proponent of creating jobs and encouraging manufacturing across South Carolina, I look forward to seeing these higher education institutions utilizing the grant to stimulate small business growth, jobs, and valuable research.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT PILOT
PROGRAM ACT OF 2017

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2921) to establish a vegetation management pilot program on National Forest System land to better protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfire, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2921

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE RIGHTS-OF-WAY
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—To encourage owners or operators of rights-of-way on National Forest System land to partner with the Forest Service to voluntarily perform vegetation management on a proactive basis to better protect utility infrastructure from potential passing wildfires, the Secretary shall conduct a limited, voluntary pilot program, in the manner described in this section, to permit vegetation management projects on National Forest System land adjacent to or near such rights-of-way.

(b) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—A participant in the pilot program must have a right-of-way on National Forest System land. In selecting participants, the Secretary shall give priority to holders of a right-of-way who have worked with Forest Service fire scientists and used technologies, such as Light Detection and Ranging surveys, to improve utility infrastructure protection prescriptions.

(c) PROJECT ELEMENTS.—A vegetation management project under the pilot program involves limited and selective vegetation management activities, which—

(1) shall create the least amount of disturbance reasonably necessary to protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfires based on applicable models, including Forest Service fuel models;

(2) may include thinning, fuel reduction, creation and treatment of shaded fuel breaks, and other measures as appropriate;

(3) shall only take place adjacent to the participant's right-of-way or within 75 feet of the participant's right-of-way;

(4) shall not take place in any designated wilderness area, wilderness study area, or inventoried roadless area; and

(5) shall be subject to approval by the Forest Service in accordance with this Act.

(d) PROJECT COSTS.—A participant in the pilot program shall be responsible for all costs, as determined by the Secretary, incurred in participating in the pilot program, unless the Secretary determines that it is in the public interest for the Forest Service to contribute funds for a vegetation management project conducted under the pilot program.